

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1505

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of BLUE LINES, INC.,)	Served February 19, 1976
to Abandon Montgomery Village)	Application No. 913
Regular Route Operation)	Docket No. 311

By Application No. 913, filed February 10, 1976, Blue Lines, Inc., seeks authority to abandon its Montgomery Village regular route operation pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(i) of the Compact.

Blue Lines has authority, inter alia, to transport passengers and their baggage, and express and newspapers, in the same vehicle with passengers, over regular routes, as follows:

Between points in Washington, D. C. and Montgomery County, Maryland, restricted to the boarding and alighting of passengers along Maryland Route 124, Quince Orchard Road, Montgomery Village Avenue, and within the community of Montgomery Village, Maryland, further restricted to discharge only at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland and points in Washington, D. C. southbound; and boarding only from points in Washington, D. C., and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, northbound.

From Washington, D. C. over city streets to the Maryland-D. C. Line, thence over Wisconsin Avenue (U. S. Highway 240) to junction Interstate Highway 70S to junction Montgomery Village Road, thence over Montgomery Village Road to junction Centerway Road, thence over Centerway Road to Montgomery Village Shopping Center roadways, thence over Montgomery Village Shopping Center roadways, to junction Stedwick Road, thence over

Stedwick Road to junction Montgomery Village Road to junction Maryland Highway 355; thence over Quince Orchard Road to junction Maryland Highway 124 to junction Maryland Highway 28, and return over the same route.

Blue Lines seeks authority to abandon this regular route operation. According to Blue Lines, it is unable to provide the service required due to a lack of funds to operate the service.

The Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(i) provides as follows:

No carrier shall abandon any route specified in a certificate issued to such carrier under this section, unless such carrier is authorized to do so by an order issued by the Commission. The Commission shall issue such order, if upon application by such carrier, and after notice and opportunity for hearing, it finds that the abandonment of such route is consistent with the public interest. The Commission, by regulations or otherwise, may authorize such temporary suspensions of routes as may be consistent with the public interest. The fact that a carrier is operating a route or furnishing a service at a loss shall not, of itself, determine the question of whether abandonment of the route or service over the route is consistent with the public interest as long as the carrier earns a reasonable return.
(Emphasis added.)

Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission shall schedule a hearing to develop an appropriate record.

The reason for the hearing is to fully develop the basis for any finding as to whether abandonment of the route or service over the route is consistent with the public interest. Such a finding shall involve, among other things, consideration of whether alternative service may be provided by another carrier. Accordingly, the Commission shall consider appropriate applications to provide alternative service.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Application No. 913 of Blue Lines, Inc., be, and it is hereby, scheduled for public hearing to commence Monday, March 15, 1976, at 10:00 A. M., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

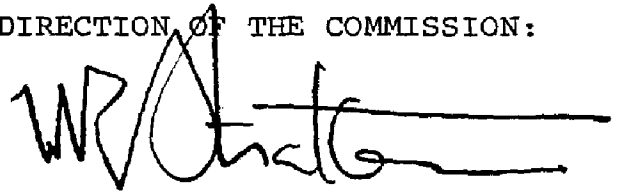
2. That the staff of the Commission publish notice of the application and hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District no later than Monday, February 23, 1976, and present at the hearing a certificate of publication from the selected newspaper.

3. That Blue Lines, Inc., post notice in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission of the application and hearing in each of its vehicles no later than Monday, February 23, 1976, and present at the hearing a certificate of posting.

4. That any carrier desiring to provide alternative service to that sought to be abandoned by Blue Lines, Inc., shall file an application with the Commission no later than Monday, March 1, 1976.

5. That any person desiring to protest shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall notify the Commission, in writing, on or before Friday, March 5, 1976, and shall mail a copy of such protest or notice to Paul A. Swan, Vice President, Blue Lines, Inc., 2001 New York Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20002.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WR Stratton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

WILLIAM R. STRATTON
Commissioner